

BEFORE THE INVESTIGATIVE PANEL OF THE
FLORIDA JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION
STATE OF FLORIDA

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE NO. 02-337
RE: JUDGE ANA MARIE PANDO

NOTICE OF FORMAL CHARGES

To: The Honorable Ana Marie Pando
County Court Judge
Dade County Courthouse
73 W. Flagler Street, Room 507
Miami, FL 33130

You are hereby notified that the Investigative Panel of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, by a vote of the majority of the members present at a meeting held in Tampa, Florida, on February 13, 2004, has determined pursuant to Rule 6(f) of the Rules of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, as revised, and Article V, § 12(b) of the Constitution of the State of Florida, that probable cause exists for formal proceedings to be, and the same are hereby instituted against you to inquire into charges, based upon allegations that during your unsuccessful 1998 election campaign and your 2000 election campaign for the judgeship that you now occupy, you engaged in a pattern of improper conduct in that you, to wit:

1. In violation of Chapter 106 of the Florida Statutes and Canon 7 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, during the 1998 campaign, you knowingly and recklessly accepted a \$25,000 personal loan from a family member (your mother) made for the purpose of influencing the results of an election in excess of the \$500 limit on contributions proscribed

by law. Further, you misrepresented the source of this loan in an attempt to avoid the \$500 contribution limit.

2. In violation of Chapter 106 of the Florida Statutes and Canon 7 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, during or after each campaign, you knowingly and recklessly violated the reporting provisions of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes, by certifying the correctness of the campaign loan reports for each campaign year, when you knew that such reports were incorrect, false, or incomplete because they failed to disclose that Millie Bencomo (your mother), Esteban Bencomo (your stepfather), and/or their respective businesses were a source of numerous loans in excess of the \$500 limit.

3. In violation of Chapter 106 of the Florida Statutes and Canon 7 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, during the campaigns, you misrepresented the source of certain of your contributions in your campaign finance reports.

4. In violation of Chapter 106 of the Florida Statutes and Canons 1, 2, and 7 of the Code of Judicial Conduct, during the course of your deposition on July 2, 2003, you made statements tending to mislead the Commission as to a purported loan that you received from Eastern National Bank.

These acts, if they occurred as alleged, would impair the confidence of the citizens of this state in the integrity of the judicial system and in you as a judge; would constitute a violation of the cited Canons of the Code of Judicial Conduct; would constitute conduct unbecoming a member of the judiciary; would demonstrate your unfitness to hold the office of judge; and would warrant discipline, including, but not limited to, your removal from office and/or any lawyer discipline that the Commission recommends

You are hereby notified of your right to file a written answer to the above charges made against you within (20) days of service of this notice upon you.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Formal Charges has been furnished by U.S. Mail to Jose M. Herrera, Esquire, 1401 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 200, Coral Gables, Florida 33134 and to The Honorable Ana Marie Pando, County Court Judge, Dade County Courthouse, 73 W. Flagler Street, Room 507, Miami, FL 33130, on this 23rd day of August, 2004.

Brooke S. Kennerly
Executive Director

